Bridgewater Oct. 20th 1868

My Dear Friend

Your esteemed letter has afforded me much pleasure on this my eighty fifth birth day. I know of nothing more gratifying in extreme old age, than the testimonials of respect and regard of those with whom we have been associated in the journey of life, and from no one would they be more highly esteemed by me than from yourself.

You allude to the sermon of Dr Gay delivered on his eighty fifth birth day. I have it, and have read it through to-day as the most appropriate thing I could do. It is an admirable

I cannot and would do credit to
any man at any age —

Altho' of the same age I can-
not say with Caleb of old that
"I am as strong as I was at
forty" yet I have abundant
cause for gratitude to my
Heavenly Father for the good
degree of health and use of my
mental faculties I am permitted
to enjoy.

I find difficult to realize that
I have passed so many of the
mile stones on the journey of life and
am reminded of the lines of Rev
J. Pierpont on his 77th birth day

"This earthly house thy wisdom planned
And leased me for a term,
The house I live in seems to stand
On its foundations firm

I hardly see that I am old;
But younger eyes find proof
Of its long standing, who behold
The gray moss upon its roof—"

In reverting to the different periods of my past life, the four years I resided in Springfield are remembered as among the happiest of them.

Thanking you for your kind remembrance of me on this my birth day anniversary. I remain, as ever most sincerely

Your friend & well wisher
Artemas Hale

Hon Solomon Lincoln